

**Question for written answer E-009150/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Media freedom in Hungary after October protests against the Internet tax

In what seems to be a worrying trend in Hungary of introducing discriminatory taxes –following on from the advertising tax which came into effect in August 2014 – the Hungarian Government has proposed an Internet tax. The reaction spread during the last week of October 2014: 10 000 people marched in the streets until Mr Orbán announced, on Friday 31 October, the decision to discard the controversial tax. However, protesters warned that plans for the tax have not been abandoned, since the government announced a national consultation on taxing online profits for 2015.

The EU publicly condemned the Internet tax and continues to stand against the systematic use of fiscal measures to threaten media and political freedom, while compromising the basic civil rights of Hungarian citizens.

1. Given that Mr Orbán seems to be taking actions that go against the EU values of media freedom and pluralism, what does the Commission intend to do to address this worrying pattern?
2. Since the Hungarian Commissioner, Tibor Navracsics, is directly responsible for culture and education, can Parliament be assured that he will stand up for EU values in these areas, even if it means this goes against the actions being taken by the Hungarian Government?